

#### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims are drawn to a hybridization assay using a mixture of encoded microcarriers having a hybridization probe for one of a plurality of target sequences and a coding scheme comprising a plurality of signaling hairpins which are not hybridization probes for the target sequences. The closest prior art is Tyagi and Lee et al. in further view of Tyagi et al. None of these references teach or suggest the assay as instantly claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### *Correspondence*

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather G. Calamita whose telephone number is 571.272.2876 and whose e-mail address is [heather.calamita@uspto.gov](mailto:heather.calamita@uspto.gov). However, the office cannot guarantee security through the e-mail system nor should official papers be transmitted through this route. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached at 571.272.0782.

Papers related to this application may be faxed to Group 1637 via the PTO Fax Center using the fax number 571.273.8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to 571.272.0547.

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